(b) if so, the details of medical colleges proposed to be opened in different parts of the country, State-wise; and

(c) whether proposed colleges are going to be opened in private sector or in the Government sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Any person who desires to establish a new medical college has to submit a proposal to the Central Government for permission to establish a new Medical College as per the provision of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, as amended and the regulation made thereunder. No such proposal has been received from Indian Medical Association.

Injectible Contraceptives for women

2130. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the demand made by various women organizations and women activists, Government have banned injectible contraceptives in the family planning programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that the proposed injectible contraceptive have many side effects;

(c) if so, how Government are thinking of introducing this in the family planning programme; and

(d) whether it is a fact that US Food and Drug Administration has declared injectible contraceptive, Depo Provera, as not good and put it in the "Black Box"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Injectible contraceptives are not included in the Family Welfare Programme of Government of India.

(b) Injectible contraceptives preparation are hormonal in nature, therefore, they are likely to cause in some women menstrual irregularities,

nausea, vomiting, headache, fatigue, abdominal pain, mood swings and weight gain. Prolonged use of Depo Provera may result in a loss of bone mineral density.

(c) Govt. of India has no proposal to introduce injectible contraceptives in the National Family Welfare Programme till the results of the studies being conducted by ICMR, New Delhi and NIRRH, Mumbai, are made available.

(d) The US FDA announced on November 17, 2004 that a 'black box' warning highlighting prolonged use may result in the loss of bone density, will be added to the labelling of Depo Provera contraceptive injection, an established injectible drug approved for use in women to prevent pregnancy.

The US FDA has also advised that women should use Depo Provera injection only as a long term birth control method, if other birth control methods are not suitable.

Requirement of Physiotherapists

2131. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of Physiotherapists is increasing in the country;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Due to increase in population, the demand for services of medical professionals at large is increasing and so is the demand of Physiotherapists who are Para-Medical Professional assisting the Medical Professionals in the management of patients.

No specific survey has, however, been carried out to assess the requirement of Physiotherapists in the country.